The ſwallow) vvhich bird vſeth to be counted the meſſenger, and as it vvere, the fore runner of ſpringe.

Flora) the Goddeſſe of flovvres, but indede (as ſaith Tacitus) a famous harlot, which vvith the abuſe of her body hauing gotte great riches, made the people of Rome her heyre: who in remembraunce of ſo great beneficence, appointed a yearely feſte for the memoriall of her, calling her, not as ſhe was, nor as ſome doe think, Acadronica, but Flora: making her the Goddeſſe of all floures, and doing yerely to her ſolemne ſacrifice.

Maias bovvre) that is the pleaſaunt fielde, or rather the Maye bushes. Maia is a Goddes and the mother of Mercurie, in honour of whome the moneth of Maye is of her name ſo called, as ſayth Macrobius.

Lettice) the name of ſome country laſſe.

Aſcaunce) aſkevve or aſquint. For thy) therefore.

Lethe) is a lake in hell, vvhich the Poetes call the lake of forgetfulnes. For Lethe ſignifieth forgetfulnes. VVherein the ſoules being dipped, did forget the cares of their former lyfe. So that by loue ſleeping in Lethe lake, he meaneth he vvas almoſt forgotten and out of knovvledge, by reaſon of winters hardneſſe, when al pleaſures as it were, ſleepe and weare oute of mynde.

Aſſotte) to dote.

His ſlomber) To breake Loues ſlomber, is to exerciſe the delightes of Loue and wanton pleaſures.

VVinges of purple) ſo is he feyned of the Poetes.

For als) he imitateth Virgils verſe.

Eſt nubi namque domi pater, eſt iniuſta nouercа &c.

A dell) a hole in the ground.

Spell) is a kinde of verſe or charme, that in elder tymes they vſed often to ſay ouer euery thing, that they would haue preſerued, as the Nightſpel for theeues, and the vvoodſpell. And herehence I thinke is named the goſpell, as it were Gods ſpell or vvorde. And ſo ſayth Chaucer, Liſteneth Lordings to my ſpell.

Gange) goe. An Yuie todde) a thicke buſhe.

Swaine) a boye: For ſo is he deſcribed of the Poetes, to be a boye .ſ. alwayes freſhe and luſtie: blindfolded, becauſe he maketh no difference of Perſonages: vvyth diuers coloured winges, .ſ. ful of flying fancies: vvith bovve and arrow, that is vvith glaunce of beautye, vvhich pryeketh as a forked arrowe. He is ſayd alſo to haue ſhafts, ſome leaden, ſome golden: that is, both pleaſure for the gracious and loued, and ſorovv for the louer that is diſdayned or forſaken. But vvho liſt more at large to behold Cupids colours and furniture, let him reade ether Propertius, or Moſchus his Idyllion of wandring loue, being now moſt excellently tranſlated into Latine by the ſinguler learned man Angelus Politianus: vvhych vvorke I haue ſeene amongſt other of thys Poets doings, very wel tranſlated alſo into Engliſhe Rymes.

VVimble and vvighte) Quicke and deliuer.

In the heele) is very Poetically ſpoken, and not vvithout ſpeciall iudgement. For remember, that in Homer it is ſayd of Thetis, that ſhee tooke her young babe Achilles being newely borne, and holding him by the heele, dipped him in the Riuer

Riuer of Styx. The vertue vvhereof is, to de
therein from any mortall vvound. So Achil
his hele, by which his mother held, was in th
ris vvas feyned to bee ſhotte vvith a poyſ
vvas buſie about the marying of Polyxena
ſticall fable Euſtathius vnfolding, ſayth: tha
luſtfull loue. For from the heele (as ſay the b
there paſſe certaine veines and ſlender ſynn
head, and are carryed lyke little pypes behy
crates) yf thoſe veynes there be cut a ſonde
and vnfruiteful. vvhich reaſon our Poete vv
boye of purpoſe to be vvounded by Loue i

Latched) caught. VVroken) r

For once) In this tale is ſette out the ſimplicitye of

Stouping Phœbus) Is a Periphraſis of the ſunne ſet

Embleme.

Herby is meant, that all the delights of Loue, wher
but follye mixt vvith bitterneſſe, and ſorov
ſides that the very affection of Loue it ſelfe
the body many vvayes, vvith vnreſtfulneſſe
king for that we can not haue, & fynding
things vvhich beſt before vs lyked, in courſe
vvhiche alſo therevvithall chaungeth our v
vvill then ſeeme lothſome and breede vs a
is vvithered, and vve fynde our bodyes a
iollitie and luſtfull pleaſaunce.